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Eng. Col. Hist.
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WAR NUMBER.



FOUNDED 1901.

Central Offices: 28, BUCKINGHAM GATE,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON.
Telegraphic Address: EMPIREA SOWEST LONDON.
Telephone No.: VICTORIA 3094.

THE ALL-RED MAIL.

JUNIOR SECTION OF "THE FEDERAL MAGAZINE."

MONTHLY RECORD OF

THE LEAGUE OF THE EMPIRE.

EDITED BY E. M. ORD MARSHALL.

No. 7. (New Issue.—1916.)

AUGUST—SEPTEMBER.

Price 1d.



By courtesy of the "Daily Graphic."

PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE CANADIAN FORCES.

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THE STORY OF THE GREAT WAR.

August, 1914—September, 1916.



AN ICON.

OUR ALLIES: RUSSIA.

Russia of the Past.

"Even as a sword is tempered and made fine,
By dint of hammer blows that shiver crystal,
So by the pangs of long-drawn chastisement,
And buffetings of fate with patience borne,
Russia grew strong."

So wrote the national poet Pushkin, and much of Russia's history is contained in those few lines. The story of our great Ally is, indeed, one to fill us with affection and admiration for a people who have suffered so terribly, both from the invading conqueror, and worse still perhaps from internal quarrels and warfare, and who to-day is setting a great example to the world of courage, endurance and hope in the face of supreme difficulty. The tale of Russia's woes and of her struggles is too long to deal with here except in very brief fashion. The earlier dwellers in that vast land of varying climates, barren and bleak in the north, warm, sunny and very fertile in the south, were Slavs, the kinsmen of our Ally Serbia. In the 13th century they were attacked by great hordes of Tartars, a wild, fierce and uncivilised people from central Asia, and for two hundred years they had to endure the presence of these barbarians. Before Russia could fulfil the task of repairing her ruined land, the Poles overran the country, and for a short period a Polish monarch sat upon the throne of the Tsars. It was Peter the Great (that Peter, you remember, who studied shipbuilding in our Deptford yards) who helped to unite the whole Russian people in his struggle against Charles XII. of Sweden, who was defeated at the Battle of Poltava in 1709. But Russia's sufferings were not yet complete, for, like every other country in Europe, she

was for a time to fall under the yoke of Napoleon, whose downfall was very largely due to his terrible Russian campaign, which so terribly thinned the ranks of his soldiers. Since that time Russia has increased greatly in population and power, and to-day her people, and not merely her rulers, are beginning to realise that they have a great part to play in the world.

The Russian Peasant.

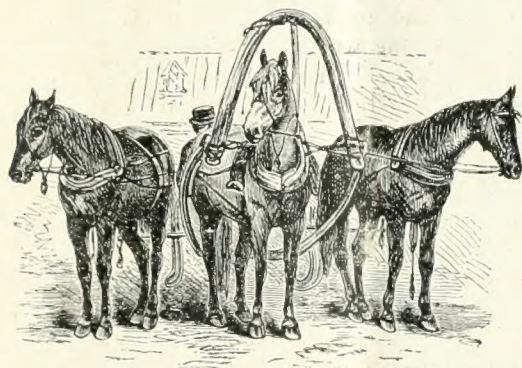
Many of us, probably, until the present era, were apt to look upon Russia as a wild and barren land ruled over by tyrants, who sent hundreds of men and women into banishment in terrible Siberia. We knew nothing of the peasant, the dweller on the land, who forms by far the largest part of the population. All who have learnt to know the Russian "mujik," as he is called, speak of him with the utmost enthusiasm. They tell of his love of "Mother Russia," of his simplicity and gentleness and hospitality, and of his cheerfulness and his good humour. When a stranger comes to his village or his simple home he is received with open arms; no one wants to make money out of him, no one is suspicious of him. This peasant is, maybe, somewhat slow according to our hustling ideas, but he is wonderfully patient and persistent, and possessed of a fund of shrewdness and good sense. He is also a clever fellow, and during the long winter evenings, when the villages are cut off from all connection with the outside world, he and his family make those quaint wooden toys and pretty carved metal jewellery and hand-woven linens and lace which of late years have found such a ready market in our shops. And while they work at their crafts they sing and tell each other *sagas* which have been handed down for centuries from father to son. He is a peace-loving creature, devoted to his native village and his home and family; but stronger than this feeling is his passionate devotion to "Mother Russia," and this it is that turns the simple, uneducated Russian peasant into the magnificent soldier who faces death on the field of battle with coolness and courage.



RUSSIAN PEASANTS DRINKING TEA.—A SAMAVOR.

Russian Unity.

"Russia is a family as no other nation is, and the Tsar deserves his popular title of 'Little Father' because he is the head of a family." There is probably in Russia a stronger feeling of brotherhood between all ranks of society than in any other country in the world. The very word "brother" is in constant use among friends, and even acquaintances and servants on the great estates, whose parents were serfs, regard their masters and mistresses with great affection, and address them and the young folks in terms of endearment. Religion also unites the people of Russia, for the simplest form of Christianity appeals, as Tolstoy, the great Russian novelist, has shown us, to educated and uneducated alike. But though the heart of Russia is sound, there are weak places in her constitution. Her government has too often been carried out by cruel and ambitious men, who have persecuted and tortured those who demanded justice for their countrymen, who, until the calling of the Duma in 1906, had, with few exceptions, no voice in their country's affairs. But the peasant and the workman, who form the great bulk of the nation, are now making themselves more felt. The spirit of unrest is awakened, reform is in the air.



A TROIKA—WHICH GOES AS THE WIND.

The Call of the War.

When war broke out, however, the people of Russia forgot their differences, and remembered they were one great family, with the Tsar as their "Little Father." Truly, they have had to face supreme difficulties, but they have shown supreme qualities. Defeat and failure have only aroused in the people the determination to continue their grim work, and never for a moment has their courage faltered. The words of the President at the opening of the Duma in September, 1915, found an echo in every Russian heart:

"We must fight to the end and to the last soldier capable of bearing arms. We must be strong in profound faith in the mighty Russian warrior.

"We trust in thee, Holy Russia, in thy inexhaustible spiritual resources, and let this encouraging voice of the entire Russian soil penetrate thither into the glorious Russian Army, and into the midst of the gallant Fleet, and

let our glorious defenders, the Army and Navy, know that Russia, harmonious, united in one with her Army, burning with a single wish and a single thought, will oppose to the hostile attack the steel breasts of her sons."

"O! mighty Russia, thou that didst withstand
The furious onslaught of the Tartar horde,
Once more does Freedom find thee with her sword
To keep inviolate thy Holy Land."

EST. J. BROOKS.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS ON RUSSIA.

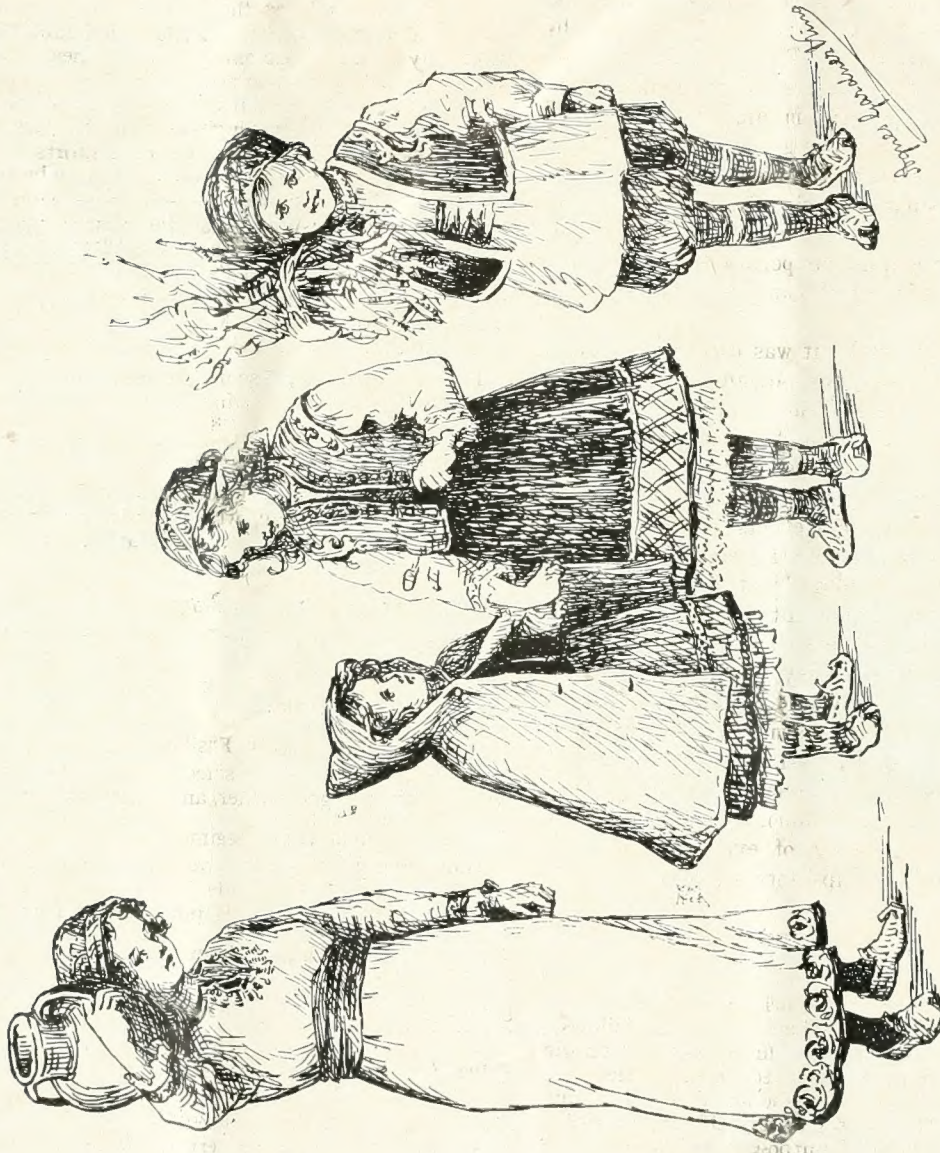
Wallace, Sir D. M. . . .	Russia and the Balkan States.	Encyclopædia Britannica Co. 2s. 6d. net.
Baring, Hon. M. . . .	Mainsprings of Russia . .	Nelson. 2s. net.
Do. do. . . .	An outline of Russian Literature.	Williams and Norgate. 1s. net.
Vinogradoff, P.	The Russian Problem . .	Constable. 1s. net.
Graham, S.	Changing Russia	Lane. 7s. 6d. net.
	Russia	Black. 7s. 6d. net.
	*Russia (96 illustrations in colour).	Black. 1s. 6d. net.
Post Wheeler	*Russian Wonder Tales . .	Black. 6s. net.
(Translation)		
Mackall, J. W.	Russia's Gift to the World.	Hodder and Stoughton. 2d.
	*Suitable for young people.	

THE CHILDREN OF BRITISH GUIANA AND THE WAR.

The subject of the great European conflict is one which must necessarily occupy the thoughts of school children and their teachers in all parts of the British Empire. A report from British Guiana, received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, shows how teachers there have made it a means for instilling useful knowledge, and also how they have used it to provide pupils with opportunities for taking part in some of the various activities called forth by the needs of the moment.

Although the Education Code of the colony does not require children to learn the geography of Europe, or of any portion of the globe outside the British Empire and the Americas, yet commendable attempts have been made in some of the schools to interest pupils in the conflict raging over Europe, the near East and parts of Africa. The ebb and flow of the contest has brought into prominence names such as Warsaw, Bagdad, Riga and Salonika, which have become household words, although probably never previously heard of by the vast majority of the pupils. The children have thence been led to seek knowledge of the peoples engaged in the war and also of the causes involved.

In view of the participation of the British Empire as a whole, teachers in the colony took the opportunity to bring home to their pupils the part which the West Indies and British Guiana have played and are playing in the consolidation of the Empire and also in the present war. That the schools take a vital interest in the enlarged curriculum, and especially in local schemes in connection with the great war, is shown by the liberality with which both scholars



This charming drawing by Miss Agnes Gardner-King will help members who are making their national dress for the children of Serbia. Flat patterns in the different sizes may be obtained from the office of the League of the Empire, 28, Fackingham Gate, Westminster. A full description of the dress clung to by the Serbian nation through many generations will be found in the March issue of the "All-Red Mail."

and teachers subscribed to the collections on "Air Craft Day" and "Red Cross Day."

In order to organise the system of voluntary collections from primary schools of the colony in aid of the Red Cross Fund, an unofficial circular was issued by the Government containing the proposals, which are here summarised: (1) That from the 37,000 children on the rolls of the schools in British Guiana, one cent or more per quarter may be collected from each child on behalf of the British Red Cross Society. . . . Contributions to be continued during the war and for six months after. (2) That in order to keep visibly and continually before the eyes of the children the object of the Red Cross Society, in aid of which their voluntary contributions were to be given, posters drawn up on somewhat similar lines to the handbills distributed on Red Cross Day be issued to each school. (3) That as children appreciate some little token in recognition of their contributions, the older pupils be permitted to prepare small red cross badges made out of paper or other suitable material.

Collections taken on this scale, it was estimated, would amount to about \$1,500 a year, not a mean sum to be contributed by the primary schools of the colony.

Continuing his report, the Director of Education says that most gratifying replies have been received to his proposals. Both managers and teachers approved the scheme, and one head teacher summarised its good effects as follows: "I beg to say that I consider the idea a very good one. In my opinion it would serve a three-fold object. First it would afford an opportunity to the children to assist in the great struggle; second, they would learn a great deal of the extent of the Empire to which they belong; and third, their patriotism and enthusiasm would be called forth."

The example shown by the Crown Colony of British Guiana will be of interest to all desiring to develop patriotism and practical sympathy amongst young people, the ideals inculcated being that "union is strength," and that the sacrifice and sympathy of even the smallest member of the community helps forward the cause of justice and liberty.

Southland Branch, New Zealand.

The Secretary of the Southland Branch (Mr. E. Smith), in a communication to the Central Office, writes as follows: "The posters I handed over to the Invercargill Patriotic Committee. This body at once displayed them to the best advantage in shop windows. Our League members have thus had a good chance to see them. Recruiting Officers to whom I handed a few best suited to their purpose have told me they found them very helpful. The day after they reached me they were displayed in the town and the recruiting depot reported that close on 30 had handed in their names. The previous Saturday produced ONE. So you see we can thank the posters for a big help. . . . Some of my past scholars are now back in Invercargill. All are eager to return to the Front. Nothing seems to daunt them. One feels proud to have handled such boys, and confident that while our Empire produces such fighters the bogey of 'degeneration' need not be feared. How thankful all will feel when complete victory crowns the sacrifices our Empire has made in this most terrible struggle."

WORK FOR THE IRISH PRISONERS OF WAR.

Parcels continue to be sent to prisoners of war in the Limburg (Lahn) and other camps in Germany. Large quantities of socks and other comforts have also been sent to the Russian prisoners of war in Germany. In writing to acknowledge these, the Secretary at the London Depot says: "Your gifts are most welcome, for we are badly in need of warm clothing for the prisoners, and they are always asking specially for socks, and we find it very difficult to provide for them all. We have only about 20,000 among 150,000 men, though, of course, we are providing 100,000 men with foot wrappers this winter."

The parcels are sent off fortnightly from the League of the Empire Depot, 28, Buckingham Gate, by Mrs. Harold Lucas. Any socks, food, gay bags or other comforts for the prisoners, as well as contributions large or small, may be sent to the Hon. Secretary. The following subscriptions have been received for the Prisoners of War Fund: Per Mrs. Dodgson, £30; Lieut.-Colonel Colquhoun, £3. 15s.; Miss Byron, £5. 5s.; Colonel Stawell, £3; Mrs. Chater Fawsitt, £3; Miss M. H. Mason, £2; Miss E. L. Young, £2; Miss A. Stewart, £2; Miss A. M. Moore and friends, £1. 11s. 6d.; Mr. E. C. A. Byron, £1; Miss Inniss (Barbados), £1.

The following are some extracts from communications received at the office during the last few weeks in regard to this work:—

Private in Royal Munster Fusiliers.

In acknowledgment of your kind and ever-welcome parcel of food, socks, soap, &c., which arrived to-day and was in good order. I was very glad to get your parcel, as I had not had one for a long time.

Private in Royal Irish Regiment.

I beg to acknowledge your parcel containing bread, dripping, meat and vegetables, soap, socks, &c., for which I tend my grateful thanks. I thoroughly enjoyed contents and I got them in good condition.

Private in Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

A card conveying my sincere thanks for parcel containing wool received in good order and which was very useful to me.

Private in Royal Irish Regiment.

Many thanks to you for your most kind and welcome parcel, which I received quite safe. The weather here for the past fortnight is very warm. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Private in Royal Irish Regiment.

Many thanks for your parcel of foodstuffs, which came in good condition and very satisfactory. Everything was complete.

Private in Connaught Rangers.

Dear and kind friends, just a card in receipt of your very kind and welcome postcard and parcel with foodstuffs and socks, for which I am so very thankful. I shall never forget your kindness to me.

Private in the Irish Guards.

I herewith beg respectfully to thank you for a beautiful parcel of foodstuffs, which I received in good condition. I am very thankful to you for your kindness to me.

Private in Royal Irish Regiment.

I received parcel safe. I am glad I got the towels and housewife, for they are the things we need very much here. Some of us are expecting to go to Switzerland. If I go I will let you know how I am getting on there.



SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENTATION.

By courtesy of the "African World."



By courtesy of the "African World."

MARCH PAST OF SOUTH AFRICAN INFANTRY.



By courtesy of the "African World."

TRANSVAAL SCOTTISH MARCHING BAND.

Photo: Sport and General.

COMPETITIONS.

REPORT.

Little Gay Bags.

A large number of well made and pretty bags have been sent in, with a nice assortment of useful articles which will, I am sure, be much appreciated by their recipients. In some cases much ingenuity has been shown in devising neat pockets and otherwise making the bags most serviceable.

The FIRST PRIZE is awarded to M. Wood (Bradford) for a specially dainty bag. A SECOND PRIZE is awarded to Claire Nicholls (New South Wales). CERTIFICATES are awarded to the following competitors obtaining honourable mention: Ada Briden (New Cross), Edith Tucker (Nunhead) and Doris Fowler (New Cross).

Stationery Pads.

Only a few stationery pads were sent in. The PRIZE goes to Dorothy Schulthess (Bradford) for an exceptionally well-made pad which she had decorated with her own painting. A CERTIFICATE is awarded to Kathleen Myers (Bradford) for a small but neatly made pad.

News from Home Budgets.

This competition has resulted in a great number of scrap books being received, which are being forwarded to hospitals in England and France, where they will afford the greatest pleasure to the wounded who receive them. The FIRST PRIZE is awarded to Dorothy Halmshaw (Cleckheaton), whose album contains an excellent selection of short stories as well as good pictures. A SECOND PRIZE is awarded to Janet Speight (Cleckheaton) for a budget containing a varied choice of subjects. THIRD PRIZE is awarded to Enid Stacey (Great Yarmouth) for the keen sense of humour shown in her choice of pictures.

CERTIFICATES are awarded to the following competitors obtaining honourable mention: May Downend (for her clever selection of sporting prints), Minnie Adams, Annie Berry, Emily Simper, Gladys Marjory Speight, Gladys Drake (all from Cleckheaton), and Doris Burwood (Great Yarmouth), whose books show care and thoughtfulness in their decoration and choice of pictures.

I must also notice a very good selection of books from Witanstede school in New Brunswick, which were well made up, and were at once despatched to various Canadian hospitals. These were not entered for competition.

What Our School has done for the War.

This subject aroused less interest than might have been expected. Of the essays sent in, the prize goes to "Worker," Coborn School, who gives a bright account of the school's interest in a great variety of war work, Red Cross funds, help for the Belgians and Serbians, and prisoners of war. Also doing the extremely useful work of growing vegetables in their school ground. The SECOND PRIZE is awarded to J. Aylett (Great Yarmouth).

HOW BOYS AND GIRLS MAY HELP.

1. They may knit mittens and socks for the prisoners of war.
 2. They may knit square cotton wash cloths.
 3. Make gay bags (see former numbers) for Christmas presents to the hospitals in France.
 4. They may design and paint Christmas cards to put in the League's parcels to soldiers.
 5. They may send the League any little Christmas presents for the soldiers or prisoners.
 6. They may have a card and collect pennies for the Flag Fund.
- Prizes will be given for the best designs and best selections of things sent in.

All competitors must be under 20 years of age. The name, address and age must be given on all work sent in for competition. In adjudging prizes age will be taken into consideration. Prizes will be awarded three times yearly, at Christmas, Easter and Midsummer.

A coupon or 1d. stamp must accompany work sent in for competition; otherwise no coupon is required, nor is there any age limit.

All contributions must be addressed to Mrs. Ord Marshall, the League of the Empire, 28, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.

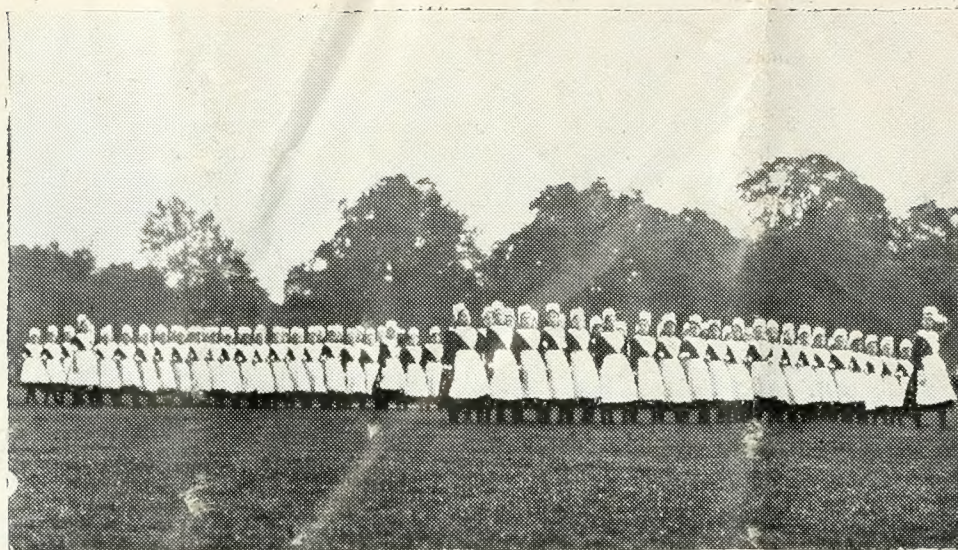
PRESENTATION OF COLOURS TO THE CANADIANS.

DEAR FRIENDS,

Miss Lyall, who wrote to you last month, has been called away to Petrograd to help nurse the Russian soldiers. In her place perhaps you will let a Canadian friend tell you about the presentation of the flag and shield which you and others have given to the Canadian soldiers.

The weather-gods called a halt in their mischievous doings on the afternoon when the Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) presented to the Canadian soldiers, from the women and children of Britain, a glorious silk Union Jack, accompanied by a silver shield so handsome in workmanship that it would grace a king's palace.

A hundred men from the Canadian forces came up from Shorncliffe to act as Guard of Honour to the Princess, and one of their fine bands played them into Sir Robert Perks's grounds,



THE CHILDREN OF THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL COMING TO THE PRESENTATION.

where the event was held. The Princess Louise arrived promptly at five o'clock, when the band played the Royal Salute and the Guard of Honour presented arms. The guard was next inspected by the Princess. "Fine soldiers, all!"

Next a detachment of girls from the Clapham High School, dressed in white, carried the colours and placed them reverently on a pile of drums, giving the shield into the Princess's own hands, while the little Foundling girls, with their stiffly starched pinafores and high white caps, and the boys in russet brown, sang "The Maple Leaf, Our Emblem Dear."

The shield contained (besides the word "Ypres") the following legend: "To the soldiers of Canada who have fought in the cause of the Empire during the Great War from the women and children of the British Isles, in high admiration of their valour and devotion."

The colours were consecrated by the Rev. R. D. Beloe, headmaster of Bradfield College, after which Miss Chamberlain (daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain), as Chairman of the Flag Committee of the League of the Empire, asked Her Royal Highness to make the presentation. A vote of thanks to the Princess was offered by the Earl of Meath, and then came the march past of the sixty-four flags of the Empire, carried by little "nippers" from the Kensington branch of the London Diocesan Church Lads Brigade. Other units taking part in the event were the Foundling Hospital, Newport Market Military School, the Church Nursing and Ambulance Brigade.

Addressing Major-General Steele and Brigadier-General Macdougall, two distinguished soldiers in the Canadian forces, the Princess then made the presentation with charming grace. She said she had been commissioned to ask them to receive, on behalf of the officers and men of the Canadian Army, these colours as a gift from the women and children of the British Isles as a token of their high admiration and enthusiastic appreciation of their eager readiness to serve the King and Empire.

"The children as yet perhaps hardly realise the full meaning of their gift," continued the Princess, glancing at the rows on rows of boys and girls formed up in a square, "I mean the knitting and drawing together of our countries into one great and absolutely united Empire. This was always one dream of my husband, though he did not foresee this terrible struggle as a means of accomplishing it. The shield is to record the

great deeds which Canada will inscribe as her part in the common effort towards the attainment of ultimate victory for our beloved King and whole Empire. To that victory only faith and absolute trust in God will lead us. In that faith I entrust this flag to you from the women and children for whom the future is being made."

General Steele, saluting the Princess, replied in a few simple words of acceptance and thanks.

Canadians were a quiet people regarding their sentiments, said he, but they would always treasure these colours, and would continue to stand by the old flag so long as the world should last. (Cheers.) They were not given to boasting, but they could be relied upon to continue to be foremost in the defence of their ideals, their country and their King.

By no means the least lusty of the cheering following this speech came from two vans of "Big Boys in Blue," who were out from the London Hospital, and occupied a position in the grounds from which they could well watch the ceremonies. Some of them had, indeed, been in the "Big Push." One sitting on a front seat with the driver had been literally "blown up in the air," whilst on the grass beside the other van was a lad named Tom Turner, who had enlisted with the 51st Battalion at Edmonton, Canada. His hip had been injured, and he was "supposed to be in bed," he said; but "nothing doing," he must see this flag being presented.

After the Princess had departed with her escort, the guests were allowed to go up informally and inspect the colours, which were guarded by two alert Canadian sentries. After which Sir Robert Perks entertained the Princess, the Canadian officers and others to tea in his beautiful house in Kensington Gardens, the Guard of Honour being also at the same time entertained to tea by friends in the neighbourhood.

The colours are to be kept at the Canadian headquarters at Shorncliffe until the end of the war, when they will be carried to Canada with the returning Canadian soldiers.

Three of the flags have now been presented, but there are yet India, Newfoundland and many others waiting for some gifts, so we hope you will collect some more pennies and send them to Mrs. Ord Marshall at 28, Buckingham Gate, who will acknowledge them and let you have news of the progress of the scheme.

Your sincere friend,

ANNE MERRILL.